

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 4-6, and 8-9 have been amended. New claims 11 and 12 have been added. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicants have amended the specification and claims 2 and 9 to address the formal objections kindly pointed out by the Examiner. Moreover, regarding the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejections, Applicants have amended claim 4 to provide antecedent basis for "the magnetic pole tooth section". A similar amendment was made to claim 5 to also provide antecedent basis. Finally, claim 9 was amended to provide antecedent basis for the "plastic deformation" and claim 6 was amended to delete the recitation "or the like". Accordingly, Applicants submit the claims are now definite.

In the Office Action, independent claim 1 was rejected as being anticipated by SCHUSTEK et al. (US 6,202,286 B1). In view of the following remarks and the clarifying amendments made to claim 1, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In claim 1, Applicants recite an electric motor comprising a stator core and a core section having a metallic connection housing. As shown in Figures 1 and 2, for example, the connection housing 1 connects the individual split core blocks 2 in dovetailed form to create one connected core section. Applicants have clarified that the stator core is "connected to the outer surface of the metallic connection housing 1". Additionally, Applicants have clarified that the dovetailed connections are plastically deformed "by punching" to remove the connection gap (compare for example Figures 1b and 1c) existing at each of the dovetailed connections.

As shown in Figure 2c, the punching is accomplished in an axial direction of the stator core in order to accomplish the plastic deformation when the stator core is connected to the outer surface of the metallic connection housing.

Applicants' invention therefore advantageously allows for the punching deformation to be applied to either an outer-rotor type or inner-rotor type electric motor since the punching is accomplished in an axial direction.

By contrast, as shown in Figure 4, SCHUSTEK discloses the connection of a core 10 and pole teeth 12 utilizing a punch 20a arranged to strike the core 10 in a radial direction in order to deform the part 34 within the interior of the blind bore 36 (col. 3, lines 24-33; see Fig. 1).

SCHUSTEK's method, therefore, is only applicable to an inner-rotor type electric motor having a rotor mounted inside of the stator. However, it is not usable with an outer-rotor type of an electric motor such as in Applicants' invention shown in Figure 1a. This is because the punching operation of SCHUSTEK would have to be executed from the interior of the connection housing 1 in Applicants' invention. As a practical matter, this operation would therefore be basically impossible in view of the limited amount of space available.

In view of the above, Applicants submit amended claim 1 is patentable over SCHUSTEK. In particular, Applicants have clarified that the stator core is connected to the outer surface of the metallic connection housing. As such, Applicants' electric motor is defined as being of the outer-rotor type to which, as discussed above, SCHUSTEK's teachings are inapplicable. Hence, Applicants submit claim 1 is patentable over SCHUSTEK, whether taken alone or in

combination with the other cited references. Moreover, claims 3 and 6-9 depend from claim 1 and are also submitted to be patentable.

Applicants' independent claim 2 was rejected as being obvious over SCHUSTEK in view of KAZAMA et al. (US 6,226,856) and PIERSON (US 3,914,859). For the reasons given above with respect to independent claim 1, Applicants also traverse this rejection.

Applicants have amended claim 2 to clarify, as discussed above, that the stator core is connected to the outer surface of the metallic connection housing, thus essentially defining an outer-rotor type of electric motor. Because the primary SCHUSTEK reference is inapplicable to such an electric motor, Applicants submit claim 2 is patentable over the cited references.

Independent claims 3 and 4 were rejected as being obvious over PIERSON in view of SCHUSTEK et al. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections as well.

Initially, Applicants have amended claims 4 and 5 to particularly note that the plastic deformation occurs "by punching from an axial direction of the stator core" in order to remove the connection gap within the dovetailed connection. As discussed above, SCHUSTEK does not use any axial punching so as to be applicable to an outer-rotor type of electric motor, but rather only utilizes an essentially "radial" punching that would be applicable to an inner-rotor type of electric motor. Regarding PIERSON, Applicants simply point out with respect to Figure 3 that no plastic deformation occurs, but rather the stator teeth 12 are fixtured into the slots and soldered in position 22 (col. 2, lines 52-57). Hence, even a combination of PIERSON and SCHUSTEK would still not

arrive at Applicants' claimed invention wherein the plastic deformation occurs by punching from an axial direction of the stator core. Accordingly, Applicants submit independent claims 4 and 5, along with dependent claim 10, are patentable over PIERSON in view of SCHUSTEK.

Finally, Applicants have added a new apparatus claim 11 and method claim 12. These claims likewise recite the plastic deformation by punching from an axial direction of the stator core. The axial nature of the punching is clearly shown in Figure 2c wherein a punch 10 is applied in the direction of the axially arranged arrows to form the machining holes 11 (likewise shown in other figures as well). As noted above, because neither SCHUSTEK nor PIERSON describe such a unique apparatus and method for an electric motor, it is respectfully submitted that claims 11 and 12 are patentable over the cited art as well.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit claims 1-12 are now in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is solicited.

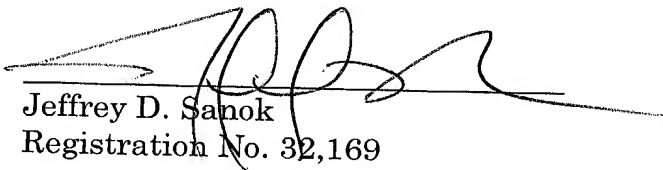
Summarizing, Applicants have made an important contribution to the art to which the present subject matter pertains, for which no counterpart is shown in any of the art or combination of same. The invention is fully set forth and carefully delimited in all claims in this case. Under the patent statute, Applicants should not be deprived of the protection to which they are entitled for this contribution. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that favorable reconsideration and an early notice of allowance be provided for all remaining claims.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #381NT/50972).

Respectfully submitted,

February 10, 2003


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